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Security Council

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Letter dated 18 October 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward herewith information on the threat of Interahamwe militia and ex-FAR to attack the Republic of Rwanda, as they are dispatched by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to reinforce the fighting on the eastern border near Rwanda (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Anastase **Gasana**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 18 October 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

17 October 2002

The Government of the Republic of Rwanda has learned with grave concern that the ex-FAR and Interahamwe who were supposedly cantoned in Kamina have now been dispatched, heavily armed from the armoury of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo to join their units, which are already besieging Bukavu town. This is in addition to other Interahamwe units which are being dispatched from Likasi, in Katanga, to reinforce their forces in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.

This is yet another confirmation that the Kinshasa Government is bent on fuelling the flames of violence in the Great Lakes region using Interahamwe and ex-FAR, in blatant violation of the Lusaka and Pretoria agreements.

The continued tactic of the Kinshasa Government to hide behind the terrorist forces (ex-FAR, Interahamwe, Mayi-Mayi, FDD, ALIR and others) to destabilize the entire Great Lakes region should be recognized for what it is and condemned unconditionally.

The Government of the Republic of Rwanda would like to reiterate its shock at the lack of appropriate response by the international community to this reversal of the peace process in the region. This is clearly nothing short of a conspiracy of silence.

The Government of Rwanda reserves the right to defend the country against these genocidal forces and calls upon the third parties to assume their responsibilities to avert this crisis.